



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Press Service



Release - Immediate

April 28, 1924.

ARE NESTING BIRDS ON THE INCREASE.

Bird censuses will again be taken on selected areas throughout the United States this summer, under supervision of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the censuses is to furnish information as to the exact number of birds nesting within the boundaries of selected tracts of land and to throw light on many problems concerning the distribution of bird life. There is a growing need for this information, especially in the proper administration of the migratory-bird treaty act and bird protective laws in general, and it is hoped by the officials that many more persons will find time to take part in this interesting study. The work will be done at the height of the nesting season, which in many localities is about June 1, when the greatest number of birds have eggs or young in the nest.

Facts regarding the numerical distribution of birds, their relative abundance, and any fluctuations taking place in their numbers are especially wanted. Bird censuses are the only means of obtaining much of this information. The data will be useful in showing what effect laws for conservation have had on the bird population of the country; how much birds have increased under protection; and what species have been most affected.

The Department of Agriculture depends wholly on unpaid assistance of volunteer observers in this work. The help received in the past has been greatly appreciated, and it is hoped that it may be increased. Detailed instructions for taking the censuses, with necessary blanks for reports, will be furnished on request addressed to the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

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